

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are in the application, however, claims 3-6 are withdrawn and claim 1, 2, 7 and 8 are drawn to the elected specifics.

The objection to the drawings is noted. A corrected REPLACEMENT SHEET is attached in which the reference character “1” has been changed to “1' ” in Fig. 2.

The specification has been amended at page 4 to provide the proper antecedent basis for the terminology in claim 2, lines 2-3.

With regard to the claim objections claim 1 has been rewritten to overcome the objections.

As shown in Fig. 1 the contact means 4a, 4b are spaced from one another with the contact tip 6 on the contact means extending into contact with the contact means 4b. In Fig. 2 the contact tips 6' of the contact means 4a' and 4b' are in contact with one another.

In claim 1, as amended, the pre-stressing means 5 is claimed positively. It is submitted that the metes and bounds of claim 7 are clear.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) based on Hembree et al., 6,045,026 (hereinafter Hembree).

Hembree claims the utilization of ultrasonic energy to reduce the initial contact forces in known-good-die or permanent contact systems. Apexes 52 are shown in Fig. 2 and are driven into an underlying conductive metal 58. There is no disclosure of linear contact tips nor of a separable tool and tool receptacle. Hembree is intended for permanent use when the apexes are inserted into the conductive metal.

Hembree uses ultrasonic energy to effect the penetration of the apexes not for transmitting ultrasound energy. Why would it be obvious in view of Hembree to use the claimed coupling to transmit ultrasound energy between a tool and a tool receptacle where the coupling is separable after use?

Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Aoki et al., 6,679,282, (hereinafter Aoki).

Aoki discloses a valve attached to a fuel tank and shows a floating valve 32 with a somewhat point-shaped part insertable into an evaporator opening. The point-shaped part does not cooperate with a contact means for transmitting ultrasonic energy. Why would a person skilled in the art with the Aoki disclosure

available to him try to transmit ultrasound energy? All that the point-shaped part does is permit a vaporized fuel to flow out and inhibit liquid fuel from flowing out. There is nothing in the reference to suggest the coupling claimed by the applicants.

Merely relying on disclosures which show a pointform construction without any disclosure or suggestion of a coupling for transmitting ultrasound energy is not a proper basis for rejecting applicants' claims as amended.

Therefore, in view of the lack of any basis in Hembree or Aoki for disclosing or suggesting the coupling as set forth in the applicants' claims, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable and a favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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